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16. ABSTRACT

This paper was given at an international conference on "Information for the Water Industry," held at the University of Reading, England. The conference aims were to provide a forum for discussion on the handling of published information in the water industry. The author summarizes the USA research information in the session: Water Information Worldwide.

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PAPER 13

USA: WATER RESEARCH INFORMATION- WHERE IS IT ?

Today Samuel Taylor Coleridge's "Water, water everywhere, nor any drop to drink" becomes the lament "information, information throughout the world, nor any can be found."

And, although it is true that the world collectively possesses the knowledge of man's world, this knowledge, in most cases, is not readily available to those who need it. Much information that was published at one time has been lost or is buried in some government or company file. Publishing is only half the answer; availability is equally important.

I wish I could present those persons in the water industry with a "shopping list" of information sources where they would find available the scientific data they need. In the United States, however, the "shopping list" does not exist because there are multitudinous, overlapping kinds of services of variable quality.

Much more important water information is to be found in the reports, bulletins, hearings, laws, and other publications issued by the Federal United States Government. Government publications continue to grow in number and significance, and they have become increasingly important tools for educators, researchers, and policy makers. Some titles have established impressive sales records, which reflect public recognition of their helpfulness.

With its increased concern over the pollution of the Nation's water resources, the Federal government of the United States has taken steps to publish information that's been developed in and through its research laboratories. Let us discuss seeking documents from these Federal agencies. Of particular interest to you would be reports issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture; U.S. Department of the Interior, which has the Water Resources Scientific Information Center; the

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U.S. Geological Survey, which has a water resources division; and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

These government-issued reports can be obtained on initial distribution from the issuing agency (primary initial distribution) or from secondary sources (secondary distribution) such as the Government Printing Office and the National Technical Information Service. Organizations such as the Smithsonian Scientific Information Exchange, or the Library of Congress publish catalogs and provide information services on available printed literature.

Both the primary issuing agencies and the secondary sources publish catalogs and announce available publications in various ways; the user should familiarize himself with the printed catalogs, bibliographies, indexes and services provided for this purpose to obtain an overview of the breadth and scope of these government publications.

PRIMARY INITIAL DISTRIBUTION

I wish to recommend strongly that users know the agency or responsible office concerned with their particular subject field. Many agencies maintain mailing lists through which they announce their new publications to organizations or persons working in similar fields or on similar problems. There is no uniform method for getting your name placed on these mailing lists; agencies have varying practices and policies. A request directed to the agency or office of particular interest to you should, however, give you the information needed to be added to a particular announcement mailing list.

Most Federal departments and agencies have their own information centers and libraries. And these centers have copies of their agency's reports--available to the browser--or upon a phone or mail request--or with mailing lists.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) diversified research programs are carried out through 15 major laboratories located throughout the country. The locations of these facilities

relate somewhat to the activities of the laboratories. Through their own work and through grants and contracts to universities, industries, and nonprofit organizations, researchers seek answers to the complex problems of water pollution and other environmental problems.

As a primary distributor, the EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) issues a quarterly ORD Publication Summary. This Summary provides a current listing of ORD's final reports on in-house, grant, contract, and interagency projects. An abstract section of new reports is included in each summary. Copies of all reports generated from the 15 laboratories and ORD offices in Washington, D.C., may be obtained from the National Technical Information Service.

The Technical Information Staff in Cincinnati, Ohio, is the central focal point for handling Office of Research and Development's technical information requests for the USEPA. The background of the staff includes experience in retrospective searching of the published scientific literature.

In Cincinnati, the Technical Information Staff has been housed at the Robert A. Taft Laboratory (formerly the Robert A. Taft Sanitary Engineering Center), a world-recognized center for water research and training. Although the building was dedicated in 1954, the laboratory in Cincinnati has been a nationally known center in the area of public water supply and water pollution control since 1913.

Today, the water research activities are part of one of the USEPA's four research and development laboratories (the Municipal Environmental Research Laboratory) at the Environmental Research Center in Cincinnati; these 4 plus 11 others comprise the 15 Office of Research and Development laboratories mentioned above. The Technical Information Staff in Cincinnati serves as a liaison with all 15 laboratories and 4 research and development offices in Washington, D.C., to process and print USEPA's Office of Research and Development reports. Through the National Technical Information Service and various USEPA offices, we are able to offer a wide range of both published and unpublished information.

The USEPA's Technology Transfer Program makes available, or transfers, the latest viable pollution control technology garnered from research, development and demonstration projects to all potential users. Program activities include conducting seminars; publishing design manuals, reports, handbooks, and seminar publications; and preparing progress, project, and Technical Transfer brochures. Technical videotapes for closed-circuit viewing by small groups and nontechnical motion pictures and exhibits of new technology are also products of Technology Transfer.

The Library Systems Branch, USEPA, prepares an extensive EPA Reports Bibliography Quarterly. This is a listing of all EPA reports entered into the National Technical Information Service.

SECONDARY DISTRIBUTION

After a report has been published and issued by a Federal agency, it can also become available through several secondary sources--usually through purchase. The two largest of these are the Government Printing Office's Superintendent of Documents and the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Technical Information Service.

Superintendent of Documents. The Superintendent of Documents operates the "Federal Depository Library Program," through which about 1,500 libraries across the United States receive, automatically and free of charge, Government publications in all or selected categories. This is done through an arrangement with the Government Printing Office whereby at the time the Government Printing Office (or one of its field printing offices located throughout the country) prints a report for an agency, additional copies are printed and sent to these Federal Depository Libraries. The report is then available to library users and on interlibrary loan.

The Superintendent of Documents sells, through mail orders and government bookstores, over 30,000 "in-print" different titles that originated in various government agencies. The availability of about 20,000 new documents is announced each

year through its Monthly Catalog of United States Government Publications. A request can be made to the Superintendent of Documents (Washington, D.C.) to be placed on their mailing list to receive their Monthly Catalog. Few of the technical reports published as the result of persons doing research on government contracts and grants are, however, included in the Monthly Catalog. They are available through the National Technical Information Service.

National Technical Information Service. The National Technical Information Service and its predecessor organization* have been providing document services since 1945. It is probably the world's largest specialty publisher and serves as the final repository for all government and nongovernment publications.

The National Technical Information Service publishes a comprehensive semi-monthly abstract journal, Government Reports Announcements and Index (GRAI), to announce all of the reports it receives. A companion journal, Weekly Government Abstracts, carries summaries of most unclassified federally funded research as it is completed and made available to the public. Generally, the abstracts have been prepared by the authors.

Upon request, and for a fee "NTISearches" are prepared from a computerized on-line, bibliography retrieval system that includes more than 400,000 document/data records. The "NTISearches" result in printed abstracts of documents pertinent to the question posed.

INFORMATION SERVICES

Below are organizations that are sources of information but do not distribute reports as do the Superintendent of Documents and the National Technical Information Service.

Library of Congress. The Library of Congress also provides document services that are of interest to the water information people. In addition to vast holdings of commercially published materials, it has extensive holdings of Federal, state and local government publications. All Federal agencies in the executive

*Clearinghouse for Scientific and Federal Information

branch send copies of all their publications to the Library of Congress. The publications prepared by the Library's Processing Department are for the most part cooperative in nature. All are created and maintained for the interest of subscribers and Library of Congress for the development of bibliographical tools for research.

Catalogs are available for a fee. Information is available in the Library of Congress Publications in Print, free upon request from the Library of Congress.

The Library publishes the Monthly Checklist of State Publications, available on subscription from the Superintendent of Documents. This is a bibliography of the publications of all States, territories, insular possessions, and State associations of the United States.

A selective listing of U.S. Government publications of research or informational value issued by Federal Agencies and printed outside the Government Printing Office is published as the Non-Government Printing Office Inprints Received in the Library of Congress, A Selective Checklist.

Operating in the Science and Technology Division, Library of Congress, is the National Referral Center to assist those who have questions in science and technology. The Center provides a single place to which anyone may turn for advice on where to obtain information on specific topics and be referred to organizations that can answer those questions. The Center is concerned with all fields of science and technology: the physical, biological, social, and engineering sciences, and the many technical areas relating to them. Similarly, it is concerned with all kinds of information resources, wherever they exist: in government, in industry, and in the academic and professional world.

In Great Britain, ASLIB performs a service similar to that of the National Referral Center in the United States.

Smithsonian Science Information Exchange. This organization is a non-bibliographic information service that parallels and supplements the National Referral Center of the Library of Congress.

The Smithsonian Science Information Exchange is a clearinghouse for information on current scientific research actually in progress. It differs significantly from other library, documentation and technical reference services in two respects. First, it is concerned only with research actually in progress. It does not register progress reports, abstracts, or other forms of published research results. Second, the exchange compiles numerical and technical information for program management purposes at the request of directors and research administrators of supporting and cooperating agencies.

The Smithsonian Science Information Exchange annually collects over 100,000 single-page records of current research projects, both of the government and the private sector. Each record describes who supports the project, who does it, where and when the research is performed, and includes a technical summary of the project. The Smithsonian collection covers basic and applied research in the life, physical, social, behavioral, and engineering sciences. Requestors may obtain specific or general information as they desire.

Searches may be ordered from the Smithsonian Services Information Exchange by letter, telephone, or cable, or by completing a preprinted order coupon. Search fees are based on the cost of providing data base search services which are performed upon the receipt of the specific request.

Water Resources Scientific Information Center. This organization, founded through the Water Resources Research Act of 1964, was formally established by the Secretary of the Interior in January 1966. In December of that year, the Federal Council for Science and Technology designated the Water Resources Scientific Information Center as the national center for scientific and technical information on water resources.

The major contributors to the data bank include: State water resources research institutes, Federal agencies with water-related research as the USEPA, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the U.S. Geological Survey literature centers of competence, Cornell University, Franklin Institute

Research Laboratories, Illinois State Water Survey, Institute of Paper Chemistry, the Universities of Arizona, Florida, North Carolina, and Wisconsin and information analysis centers, abstracting services, and similar organizations in foreign countries.

The Center publishes Selected Water Resources Abstracts (SWRA) - semi-monthly announcement journal; Annual Index to SWRA - cumulated from semi-monthly issues; Water Resources Research Catalog - annual list of summaries of active research projects; Topical Bibliographies - titles of current demands; Special Bibliography Series - compilation from broader coverage than topical bibliographies; and State-of-the-Art Review - published on high interest topics.

Access to the data base is available to anyone who needs it. Information may be obtained in the form of publications or special literature searches prepared by centers that are a part of the Water Resources Scientific Information Center's network.

United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). There are two international programs available through the USEPA: the United Nations Environment Program/International Referral System (UNEP/IRS) and the International Documents Exchange Program.

The United Nations Environment Program established an International Referral System to facilitate the international transfer of environmental information. The UNEP/IRS, using its world-wide computerized directory based on national inventories of environmental information services, links those needing information to solve environmental problems with prospective sources of assistance. The United States' national focal point is the USEPA located in Washington, D.C.

International Documents Exchange Program. The International Documents Exchange Program, initiated in 1972 between USEPA and national environmental agencies in other countries, is designed to promote awareness of other countries' experiences in formulating standards and regulatory controls and to share information on management and control systems.

Under the Documents Exchange, USEPA, through its Office of International Activities, Washington, D.C., is assembling a reference collection of foreign documents related to pollution control systems--regulatory, management and technological. Accompanied by translation services and a computerized search system, the information resource will supplement and enhance direct interchange via letter and visits. Each national environmental center from each country contributing to the USEPA collection receives all USEPA reports on microfiche for replication and further distribution within that country.

Other-than-Government Sources. This range of information sources that I have discussed could not be complete without mentioning the more well-known journals and abstracting and indexing services in the United States. In the appendix is a listing of names and addresses to which I am sure you could add your own recommendations.

CONCLUSIONS

At the world-wide level, water information must be treated as a major resource no less important than dollars, land, rivers, or highways. Information must be available not only to the researcher, but to policy-makers, planner, managers, and private citizens. Although significant dissemination of information has been achieved up to now, I am sure, in the years to come, we will achieve far more significant results in promoting the exchange needed to minimize undesirable duplication of research efforts and promote clean water world-wide.

APPENDIX

American Water Resources Association
103 North Race Street
Urbana, Illinois 61801

American Water Works Association (JAWWA)
6666 West Quincy Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80235

Environmental Information System
Oak Ridge National Laboratory
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830

The Franklin Institute Research Laboratories
Science Information Services
Benjamin Franklin Parkway
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103

Institute for Scientific Information (Current Contents)
325 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

Library of Congress
Science and Technology Division
National Referral Center
10 First Street, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20540

Manufacturing Chemists Association
Committee on Water Pollution Abatement
1825 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009

National Research Council
National Academy of Sciences
2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20418

National Technical Information Services
5285 Port Royal Road
Springfield Virginia 22161

Office of Saline Water
Division of Information
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20204

Smithsonia Science Information Exchange
1730 M Street, N.W., Room 300
Washington, D.C. 20036

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Office of Research and Development
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Cincinnati, Ohio 45268

Water Pollution Control Federation (WPCF)
3900 Wisconsin Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20016

Water Resources Division
U.S. Geological Survey
Washington, D.C. 20242

Water Resources Scientific Information Center
Office of Research and Technology
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240